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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**OTPE**

**AUG 06 2001**

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Examiner: unknown

Atty. Docket: COMP:0035--1/FLE  
P98-2162

J1050 U.S. PTO  
09/923192  
08/06/01

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Atty. Docket: COMP:0035--1/FLE  
P98-2162

NUMBER: EL 827072008 US  
 DATE OF DEPOSIT: August 6, 2001

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, I hereby certify that I am personally depositing this paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service on the date indicated above in a sealed envelope (a) having the above-numbered Express Mail label and sufficient postage affixed, and (b) addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20234.

08/06/01  
 Date Jennifer Presswood Jennifer Presswood

**REQUEST FOR FILING CONTINUING APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)**

The following are enclosed:

- 1

- 6.b. \_\_\_\_\_ A verified statement claiming small entity status was filed in a parent application and small entity status is still proper and desired in this continuing application.
7.   X   An Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449.
8.   X   A Preliminary Amendment

  X   Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to **Robert A. Manware, Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren, P.O. Box 692289, Houston, Texas 77269-2289; telephone (281) 970-4545.**

  X   Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

**--This application is a Continuation of application Serial No. 09/136,865 filed 08/19/98.--**

  X   Cancel in this application original claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 14, 19, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31-44, 46, and 49 of the prior application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)

The filing fee is calculated on the basis of the claims originally filed in the prior application, and any claims canceled or added by amendment.

CLAIMS	FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	CALCULATIONS
	TOTAL CLAIMS 24	- 20 =	4	X \$ 18.00	\$ 72.00
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 4	- 3 =	1	X \$ 80.00	80.00
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (If applicable)			+ 260.00	
				BASIC FEE	710.00
	Total of above Calculations =				
	Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity (Note 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28.				\$
	TOTAL =				\$ 862.00

The undersigned declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: August 6, 2001

  
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